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Policies and Procedures Minutes 06/04/2012

Policies and Procedures Subcommittee, Arlington School Committee

School Committee Room – June 4, 2012 – 7:20 a.m.

APPROVED Minutes

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Judson L. Pierce-Chair
 Jeffrey Thielman
 Cindy Starks

Superintendent: Dr. Kathleen Bodie

A motion to approve the subcommittee minutes of 3/7/12 made by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Pierce passed 2-0, with Ms. Starks abstaining.

Public Participation: Carrie Finison spoke about re-districting. She asked us to consider the Town of Reading's policy on Kindergarten assignments where there is first a request for volunteers, then considerations of distance/geography and that is how the risk is spread out to minimize disruption.

Greg Thompson spoke about re-districting and opined that change in schools via buffer zones should be a last resort. That the administration should move classes, add teachers, a progressive set of steps before asking a family to go to a school that may not be as close to their home.

Frank Fessenden spoke about re-districting and emphasized safety and that a child should not have to walk across a heavy traffic street while his/her neighbors are walking the other way, the safer direction, to the school closer to their home.

The subcommittee then discussed Mr. Pierce's revised draft of JCA concerning open enrollment and buffer zones. It was decided that the policy should be carefully crafted after the guidelines from the re-districting committee are published and the map is voted on by the full School Committee in a few weeks. The subcommittee will work this summer to have a good policy to the full School Committee to be voted on in September, 2012.

The subcommittee then discussed the policies regarding religious holidays (GCD-E and JH-E-1). Ms. Starks would like to see a sentence added regarding the holidays may depend upon what calendar is voted each year and she will develop some language for the subcommittee to consider at a future meeting. Mr. Thielman suggested that the Superintendent ask the staff or have the AEA conduct its own survey regarding whether they would work or take the day off on the holidays: Good Friday, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur and to report this data to the full School Committee.

Mr. Thielman moved that the subcommittee will review File J for the coming year, with focus on re-districting and a revised evaluation policy for the Superintendent (CBI, CBI-E) per the new state guidelines, and Mr. Pierce will report that to the full School Committee at the meeting on June 7th. Ms. Starks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The subcommittee will meet again on June 26, 2012 at 4:00pm.

Mr. Pierce moved to adjourn at 8:35 a.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman. Motion passed 3-0.

